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LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, the conclusions of the National Assembly of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia relative to the report of the State delegation on the Rambouillet and Paris talks (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Conclusions of the National Assembly of the Yugoslav constituent
Republic of Serbia relative to the report of the State delegation
on the Rambouillet and Paris talks

The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, at its session held on 23 March 1999, considered the Report of the State delegation on the Rambouillet and Paris talks and adopted the following

CONCLUSIONS

I

1. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia condemns in the strongest terms the threats of aggression against our country and the people as well as the build-up of NATO troops on our borders. The preparations for war and threats of aggression against our country undermine the political process for the settlement of problems in Kosovo and Metohija; make impossible the reaching of a political agreement; and represent direct support and assistance to separatists and terrorists.

2. Threats by NATO are an outright violation of the United Nations Charter and threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country. NATO tramples upon the fundamental principles of international relations, the very foundations of the international order and it constitutes a threat to international peace and security. We therefore request the Security Council to prevent violation of the UN Charter, to put immediately on its agenda the request of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and condemn NATO actions. We request the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations not to turn a blind eye to the threat of aggression and to hide by remaining silent, because in that way they will become accessory to the destruction of the generally accepted principles in international relations and to attacks on a sovereign country and a founding Member State of the United Nations. Also, we condemn the departure of the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission. There were no reasons for this action except to put the demonstration of departure in the function of blackmail and pressures on our country.

3. We are warning NATO and all the States from the territory of which aggression against our country will be attempted that we are going to defend our territory, people and our freedom by all available means.

4. We request that the Parliaments and Governments of all Member States of the United Nations, of the OSCE and the Contact Group support the resumption of the political process and condemn threats of force and advocacy of aggression against our country.

II

1. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia approves the Report of the delegation designated by the Government of the Republic of Serbia to attend the talks at Rambouillet and in Paris and assesses that the delegation, by its principled and constructive stance, has done everything possible to reach a political agreement on the peaceful settlement of problems in Kosovo and Metohija.

2. The State delegation has acted in accordance with the platform formulated by the National Assembly in its Conclusions of 4 February 1999, regarding the reaching of a political agreement on a wide autonomy for Kosovo and Metohija, while ensuring full equality of all citizens and national communities, as well as the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

III

1. We have accepted the negotiations in France, proceeding from the firm commitment of the people and of all political factors in the country to do everything possible and contribute to resolution of problems in Kosovo and Metohija peacefully and by political means, in good faith that the same is also desired by the international community and by the Contact Group which helped organize the talks.

2. In France, instead of direct negotiations and genuine efforts to reach a political agreement on substantial and large autonomy, instead of peace and political settlement, on offer were **diktat**, forgery, threats, blackmail and NATO troops.

3. The National Assembly points out with regret that the international mediators as well as the Co-Chairmen of the Rambouillet and Paris talks have not succeeded in bringing the delegation of the separatist movement to sit at the same table with the State delegation of Serbia. Therefore, there were no negotiations between the two delegations.

IV

1. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia notes that no political agreement was reached between the two delegations either at Ramouillet or in Paris.

2. The blame for failure of the talks in Ramouillet and Paris cannot be attributed to the Serbian State delegation, which insisted all the time on direct negotiations and on agreement. Consequently, all the blame for it rests solely with the delegation of the separatist and terrorist movement and with those who have permitted them to behave like this and to put their signatures on the text which they did not for a single moment want to discuss with the Serbian State delegation and which they eventually declared as a full agreement.

3. No agreement was reached because the Albanian separatist/terrorist delegation avoided face-to-face talks as they had not given up their separatist goals; their intentions to achieve, through autonomy, "a State within a State", to have Serbia occupied through the implementation of the political agreement; to create an ethnically pure Kosovo and Metohija through human rights and democracy; and finally, with the assistance of their sponsors, to secede Kosovo and Metohija from Serbia through an international protectorate and a referendum.

4. Additionally, agreement was not reached because the Contact Group insisted on proposals cancelling out the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and those of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Contact Group has thus abandoned its fundamental principles established on 29 January 1999; by not defining rules of procedure and the decision-making process it created confusion during the proceedings and provided the basis for fraud and falsification of documents which had never been discussed or endorsed by the Contact Group as a whole, by encouraging pressures and threats of aggression against our country it incited separatists and terrorists, contributing to the creation of a negative atmosphere for a political agreement on peaceful solutions for problems in Kosovo and Metohija.

5. The paper signed by the Albanian separatist/terrorist delegation is not an agreement at all but their demand for a "Kosovo Republic", initialled by the sponsors backing them on this. The fake which was presented as an "agreement" is not a Contact Group document. Even some Contact Group members have dissociated themselves from it. That is a criminal act without a precedent in international legal relations and it provides an alibi for fresh threats and pressures on our country, as forced in Paris and stage-managed by the United States. As a result, the United States has openly - diplomatically, politically and militarily - sided with one party and allied the North Atlantic Alliance with the separatists and terrorists.

V

1. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia assesses that the Agreement proposed and signed by our State delegation has made a crucial contribution to the political process of seeking solutions to problems in Kosovo and Metohija by peaceful means. The signatures of the members of our delegation representing all national communities living in Kosovo and Metohija - Serbs, Montenegrins, Muslims, Turks, Roma, Goranians, Egyptians - as well as the Albanian political parties wanting common life in equality confirmed the substantial importance and value of that document.

2. This agreement is fully along the lines of the Contact Group principles; it ensures an extensive autonomy in Kosovo and Metohija within the borders of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; it guarantees the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and the FR of Yugoslavia, full equality of citizens and all national communities, as well as the immediate establishment of viable democratic institutions and the bodies for making decisions on an equal basis without any one side being overruled by another; it ensures that there is no independent Kosovo and Metohija or a third Republic. That agreement reaffirms the commitment to a peaceful common life and a safe future for all, i.e. a multi-ethnic and multi-religious Kosovo and Metohija.

3. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia submits to the Parliaments of all UN Member States the Agreement on self-governance in Kosovo and Metohija to assess the extent and type of the autonomy that the Republic of Serbia guarantees to Albanians, Serbs, Montenegrins, Muslims, Roma, Turks, Goranians and Egyptians living in Kosmet, and calls on them to comment on the democratic dispositions guaranteeing equality of the national communities in this province.

4. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia once again clearly states that the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are still committed to a peaceful political solution of problems in Kosovo and Metohija. We reiterate the readiness of the State delegation immediately to continue direct discussions with representatives of Albanian political parties and of all other national communities. Serbia is open to a viable political agreement.

5. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia authorizes the State delegation to sign a political agreement on self-governance in Kosovo and Metohija to be agreed and signed by all national communities living in Kosovo and Metohija.

6. The National Assembly makes it incumbent upon the Government of the Republic of Serbia to proceed immediately to the operationalization of such agreement and to propose normative solutions so that the agreement may be implemented as soon as possible, as a guarantee of the strengthening of new structures in Kosmet, of inter-ethnic confidence-building, in preparation for a census, creation of the conditions for direct, general and secret elections for organs of power and for the overall normalization of the situation in this province.

VI

1. We commend the Parliaments, Governments, numerous political parties, scientific, cultural and educational organizations and institutions as well as many prominent intellectuals, researchers, cultural and public figures and individuals all over the world for offering to our people and our State, at this crucial moment in history, their support and for raising their voice in defence of the principles of equality of peoples and countries in international relations, and for denouncing threats of aggression against our country. All this has helped the truth about Kosovo and Metohija come out.

2. Serbia is united, determined and unflinching in defence of its freedom, independence and territory. This has been proved by an overwhelming support by our citizens, as demonstrated at many rallies and meetings both in the country and among the expatriate communities abroad. The National Assembly understands the unity of the people as support to the State authorities to persist in their policy and as a resolute request by the people for the freedom, independence, honour and dignity of our State to be defended, and as an obligation for the competent authorities to take necessary steps and act accordingly.

3. The National Assembly expresses the determination of Serbia to reach a rapid, peaceful and political agreement and to have law and justice silence power and injustice. At the same time, the National Assembly expresses its unity in the determination to defend Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from any aggressor, whoever he may be and regardless of the motives used to justify his crime.